

image

23

DIGITAL
EDITION

THE SCORCHED

LAYMAN
SEGOVIA
RAMOS

PRINOSIAN



image

23

DIGITAL
EDITION



The cover art features a character with vibrant red hair and glowing yellow eyes, wearing a black tactical suit with a high collar. The character is holding a futuristic, glowing yellow weapon. The background is a dynamic mix of blue, green, and yellow energy effects. The title 'THE SCORCHED' is prominently displayed at the bottom in a bold, yellow, stylized font with a black outline. A small skull icon is integrated into the letter 'O' of 'SCORCHED'.

THE SCORCHED[®]

LAYMAN
SEGOVIA
RAMOS

THE SCORCHED



image

23

DIGITAL
EDITION

LAYMAN
SEGOVIA
RAMOS

THE SCORCHED



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TODD McFARLANE ADDITIONAL SCRIPT

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN THE SCORCHED

With the Saints defeated She-Spawn sides with Gaia and takes on a new team.

THE FIGHT IS
FINALLY OVER. THE
BATTLE, FOR NOW,
HAS BEEN WON.

TERMINUS IS
DEAD, URIZEN
HAS DEPARTED.

AND THE ENERGY
BEACON THAT
MARKED THE EARTH
FOR DESTRUCTION
AND CALLED FORTH
THE MONSTROUS
'*PLANET EATERS*'
LIKE MOTHS TO A
FLAME--

--HAS FADED
TO OBLIVION.

LEAVING THE CREATURES
TO WITHDRAW, TO WANDER
THE UNIVERSE, WAITING
FOR THEIR NEXT CALLING.

FOR OUR
HEROES, IT'S
A VICTORY.

BUT IT WAS NOT WITHOUT **LOSS**.

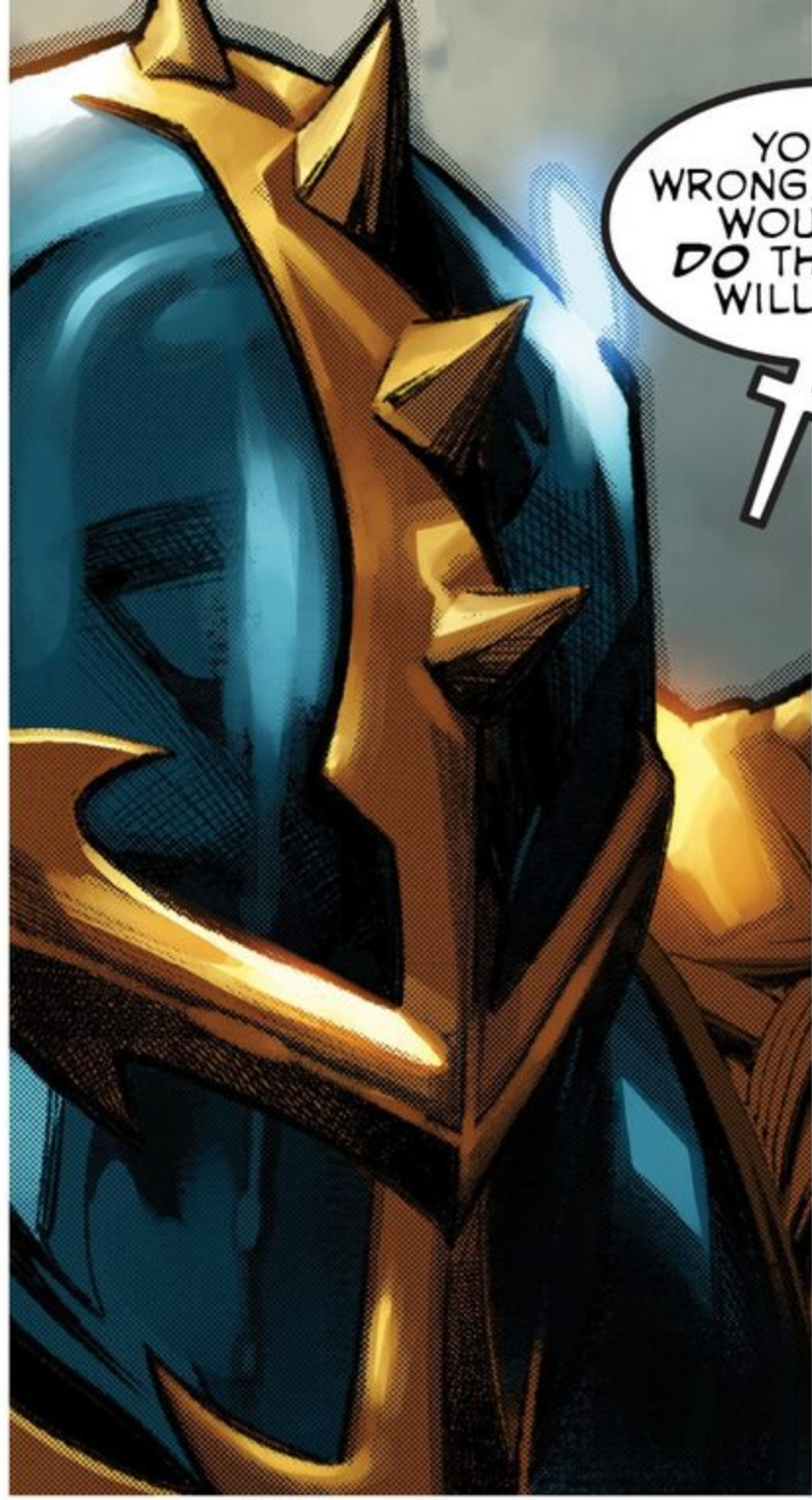
WE
BEAT OUR
ADVERSARIES
BACK.

YET,
SOMEHOW, IT
DOES NOT FEEL
AS IF WE'VE
WON.

WHY?
BECAUSE
YOUR SO-
CALLED LEADER
ABANDONED
YOU?

DEFECTED.

SHE-
SPAWN LEFT TO
SERVE GAIA, I'VE
SEEN TRAITORS
LIKE HER
BEFORE.



YOU'RE
WRONG. JESSICA
WOULDN'T
DO THAT. NOT
WILLINGLY.



BUT SHE
DID. NEXT TIME,
I'D PICK A LEADER
LESS HUMAN.

WE
NEEDED A TRUE
SPAWN.



I'D WATCH
YOUR WORDS,
MONOLITH.

BECAUSE
YOU ARE THE
OUTSIDER HERE.
YOU WILL NOT
IMPUGN HER
CHARACTER.



SHE
WAS NEVER
FIT TO LEAD
THIS TEAM.



NOT
WHILE I STILL
BREATHE.

YOU'RE
NOT...

TEST
ME.





MEDIEVAL!
MONOLITH!

THAT'S
ENOUGH!



WHAT ABOUT
YOU, REDEEMER?
WHO'S SIDE ARE
YOU ON?

THE
SAME SIDE
YOU ARE.
THE ONE THAT
FIGHTS EVIL,
NOT *THEIR*
ALLIES!



THEN TELL
ME, 'THE SCORCHED'
IS NOW LEADERLESS.
SO, WHO'S GIVING THE
ORDERS NOW?



AL
SIMMONS
SAID HE'D
LEAD US, I'LL
WAIT UNTIL HE
SAYS OTHER-
WISE.

UNLIKE
YOU, HE ISN'T
ABOUT TO TURN
HIS BACK ON
SHE-SPAWN SO
READILY.

THAT'S
NOT HOW
WE DO THINGS
HERE ON
EARTH...



"...WE VALUE
LOYALTY."

IN A SUDDEN BURST
OF NECROPLASMIC
ENERGY THEY HAD
DISAPPEARED.

ONLY TO APPEAR,
BACK AT SPAWN'S
BASE.

AWAY FROM THE
DISTRACTIONS
OF OTHERS.

OR THEIR
INFLUENCE.

IT'S TIME
WE TALKED
JESSICA.

THERE'S
NOTHING
TO SAY.

I'M WITH
GAIA NOW.
IT'S THAT
SIMPLE.

ACTUALLY,
IT'S NOT.

SO, WHAT,
YOU'RE GOING TO
HOLD ME HERE AS A
PRISONER AND **LECTURE**
ME? WHY, BECAUSE YOUR
LIFE'S TURNED OUT
SO PERFECT?

GET OVER
YOURSELF.

THIS
ISN'T ABOUT
ME, JESSICA.
I'M TRYING
TO HELP

HELP?!

I DIDN'T
ASK FOR IT--
I **TOLD** YOU I
QUIT, **GODDAMMIT**.
YOU THINK YOU
CAN TALK ME
OUT OF IT?

YOU **DON'T**
WANT THIS
FIGHT, AL. I
PROMISE.

I'VE
GOT THE
POWER OF
GAIA, THE POWER
OF GREEN-
WORLD INSIDE
ME NOW.

TALK,
YES.

BUT
I'M HAPPY
TO DO
MORE IF
IT COMES
TO IT.



RETURN
ME TO GAIA,
THEN RETURN MY
'NEW' **TEAM** AS WELL.
BECAUSE IF YOU'VE
HARMED KINGSLAYER
OR THE HEAP IN
ANY WAY...

TAKE A
BREATH! YOUR
"TEAMMATES" ARE
FINE---

--THOUGH
THEY'RE IN FOR
A VERY LONG
WALK OUT OF
THE HIMALAYAN
MOUNTAINS.

ELSEWHERE:



YOU
CAN'T **LEAVE**
US HERE,
SPAWN!



DO
YOU HEAR
ME??



REMEMBER--
I GAVE YOU A
CHANCE.

THIS IS
ALL
ON YOU
NOW.

BOOM

KXK

HER POWER--IT'S
UNLIKE **ANYTHING**
SHE-SPAWN HAD
WIELDED BEFORE.



AND THE LEVEL
OF THAT POWER,
SCARES SPAWN
JUST A LITTLE.

BECAUSE HE KNOWS
JESSICA ISN'T A TRUE
HELLSPAWN AND HER
BODY ISN'T **BUILT** TO
ENDURE WHAT SHE'S
BEEN GIVEN.

STAY
DOWN,
SIMMONS.

BAP

EVENTUALLY, SHE
WILL BURN OUT...
PERMANENTLY.

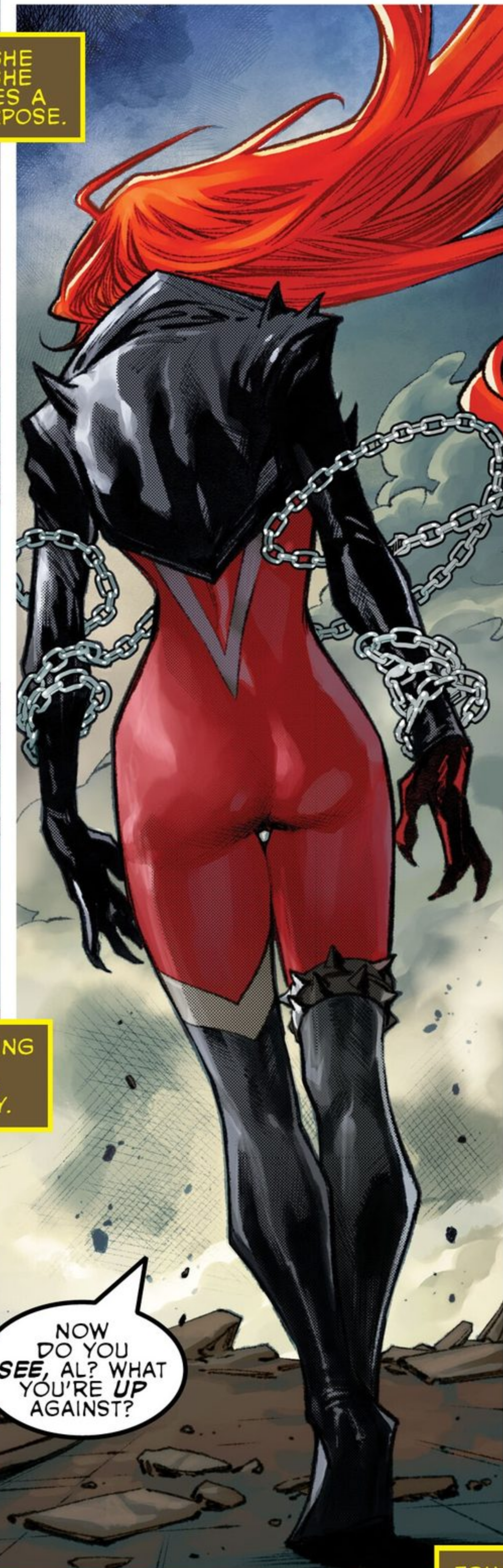


SHE JUST
DOESN'T
KNOW IT,
YET.

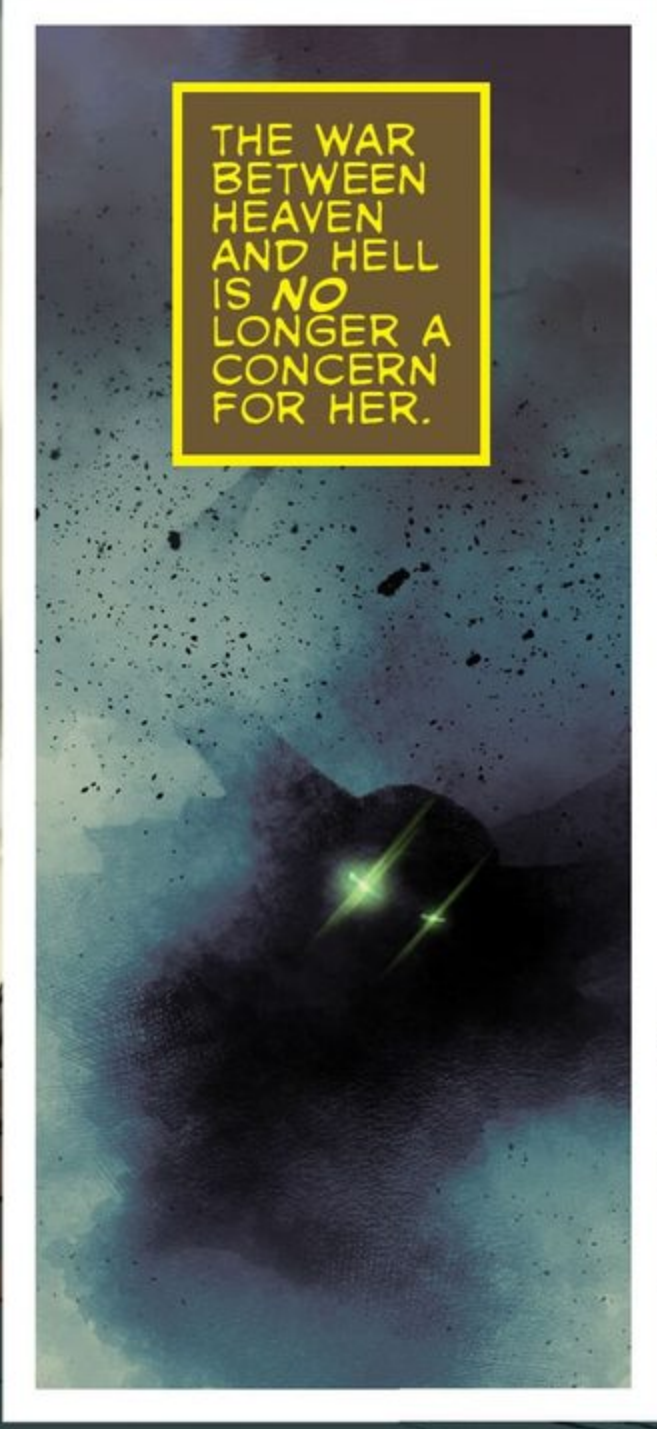


BECAUSE SHE BELIEVES SHE NOW SERVES A HIGHER PURPOSE.

A CALLING FOR A BETTER DESTINY.



NOW DO YOU SEE, AL? WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST?



THE WAR BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL IS NO LONGER A CONCERN FOR HER.



TOUCHED BY GAIA, JESSICA PRIEST HAS SPIRITUALLY ASCENDED TO SOMETHING FAR MORE THAN HUMAN.

DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU FURTHER.

SOMETHING MORE AKIN TO A GOD.

BUT SHE'S ABOUT TO
LEARN, POWER ISN'T THE
ONLY THING THAT MATTERS.

OR THAT SHE'S THE
ONLY ONE THAT HAS A
DESTINY TO FULFILL.



WHAT
IS THIS?



THIS--



--IS MY
POWER..



HOW
LONG DO WE
KEEP THIS UP,
JESSICA?





SHOW
ME YOU CAN
STOP IT!



THOSE ARE THE
LAST WORDS SPAWN
SPEAKS DURING
THEIR BATTLE.



HE LET'S HIS
ACTIONS DO ALL
HIS SPEAKING.



AS HE
PUSHES HER
HARDER.

AND
HARDER!



FORCING HER
TO TAP INTO ALL
HER NEWFOUND
POWER, THEN...
USE IT!

USE IT
ALL!

AND SHE-
SPAWN
DOES.

HITTING SPAWN WITH
EVERY RESERVE OF
HER GAIA-GIVEN
POWER.

PUSHING
HERSELF
BEYOND **ALL**
CONCEIVABLE
LIMITS.

UNTIL...

JESSICA?

AL?

ARE YOU
BACK WITH
US?

I'M--
YAH, IT'S
GONE. GAIA'S
OUT OF MY HEAD...
AND SHE TOOK
THE **POWERS**
WITH HER.

YOU DID
THAT.

YOU
LITERALLY
BURNT GAIA
OUT OF YOUR
SYSTEM.



I FEEL LIKE...I DID THINGS I SHOULDN'T HAVE.

IT'LL TAKE TIME TO CLEAR UP.

GAIA FORCED YOU TO LEAD A TEAM FOR HER...TO MAKE IT SEEM SO IMPORTANT.

SO URGENT TO YOU.

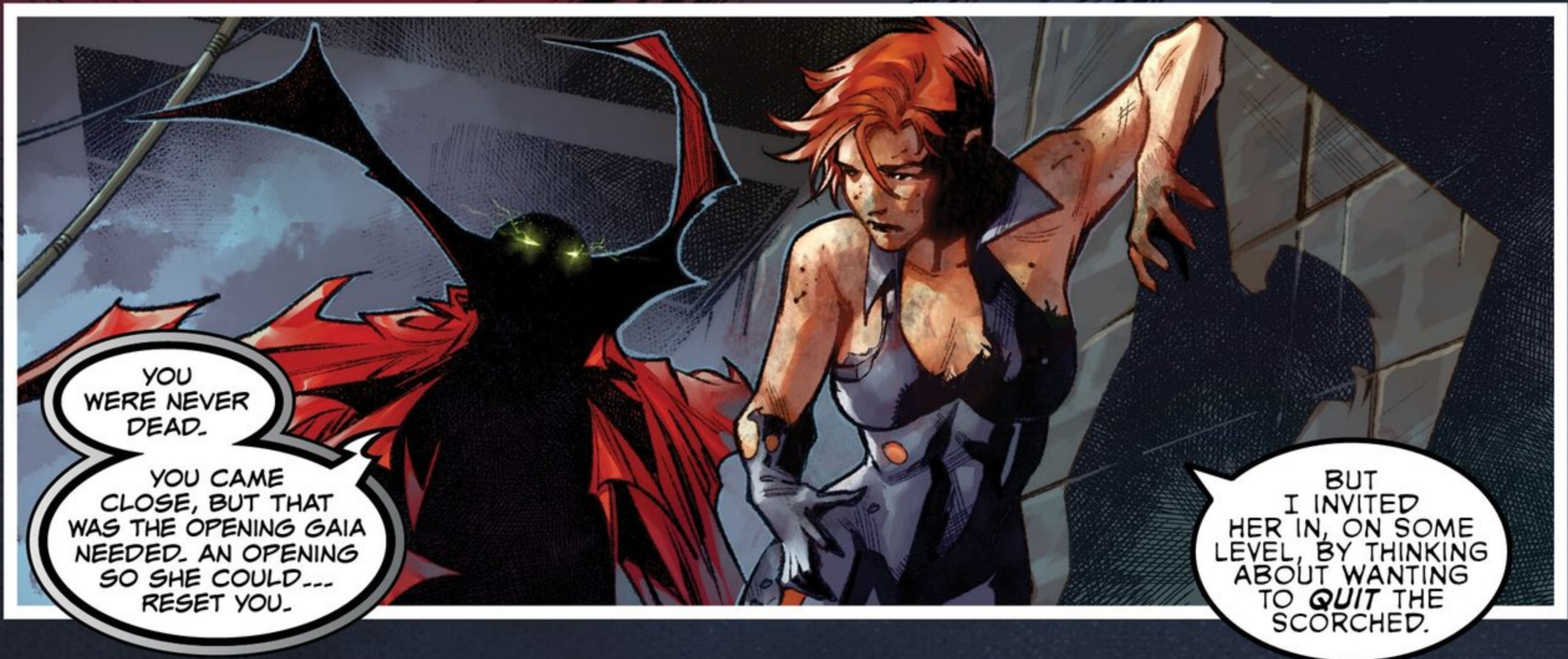


SHE WAS TRYING TO IMPLANT ASPECTS OF HERSELF INTO YOU.



HOW... WHEN SHE BROUGHT ME BACK FROM THE DEAD?*

*SEE SCORCHED #19 -- THOMAS.



YOU WERE NEVER DEAD.

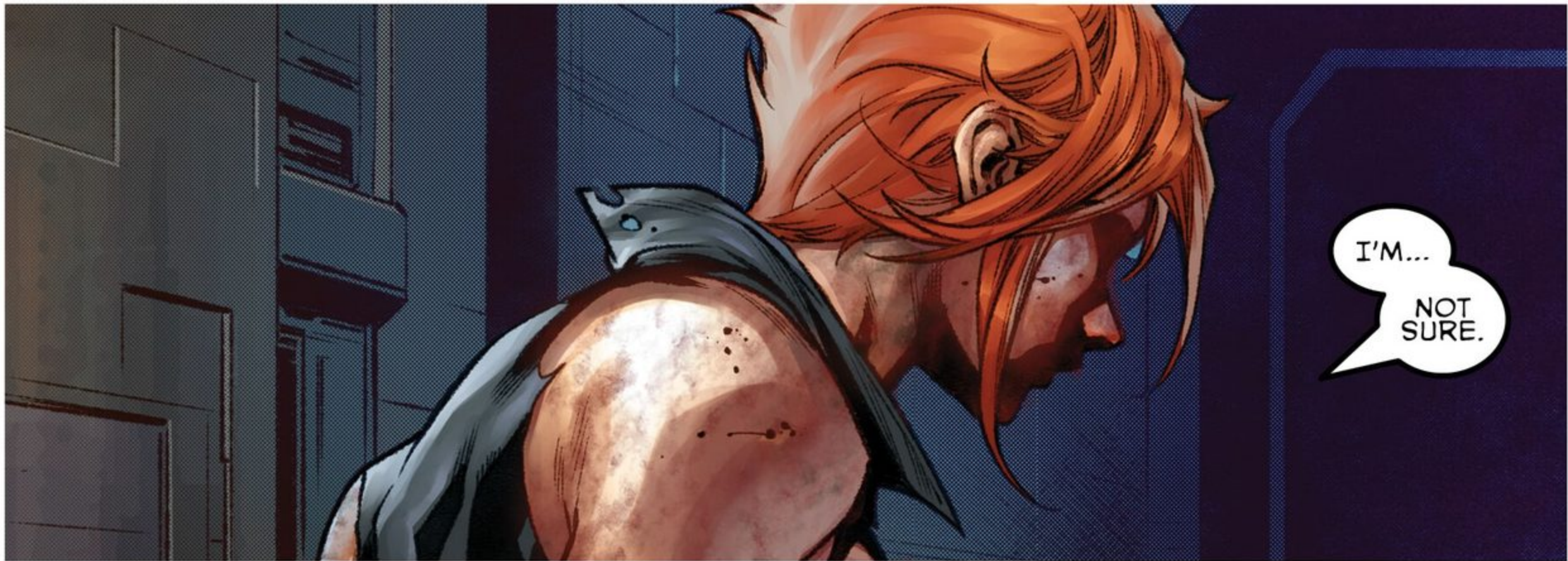
YOU CAME CLOSE, BUT THAT WAS THE OPENING GAIA NEEDED. AN OPENING SO SHE COULD... RESET YOU.

BUT I INVITED HER IN, ON SOME LEVEL, BY THINKING ABOUT WANTING TO **QUIT** THE SCORCHED.



YOU'RE RIGHT, SHE CAUGHT YOU WHEN YOU WERE DOWN. BUT THIS IS WAR AND YOUR ENEMIES WILL EXPLOIT ANY SIGN OF WEAKNESS.

SO, I NEED TO KNOW--CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? WE NEED YOU ONBOARD, COMPLETELY AND ABSOLUTELY.



I'M...
NOT SURE.



THEN YOU'RE NO GOOD TO US.



IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, DO IT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, AND OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL.

NOT BECAUSE SOMEONE'S IN YOUR HEAD OR BECAUSE I'M PRESSURING YOU.

DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

MAYBE THIS MIGHT HELP...

THE NIGHT IN NORTHEAST OREGON IS TRANQUIL AND TEMPERATE, THE ONLY SOUNDS OUTSIDE ARE THE GENTLE CHIRPS OF CRICKETS AND THE OCCASIONAL HOOT OF AN OWL.

WITHIN THE CHILDHOOD HOME OF JESSICA PRIEST, A TALE OF HEROISM IS ABOUT TO REACH ITS FINAL CHAPTER.

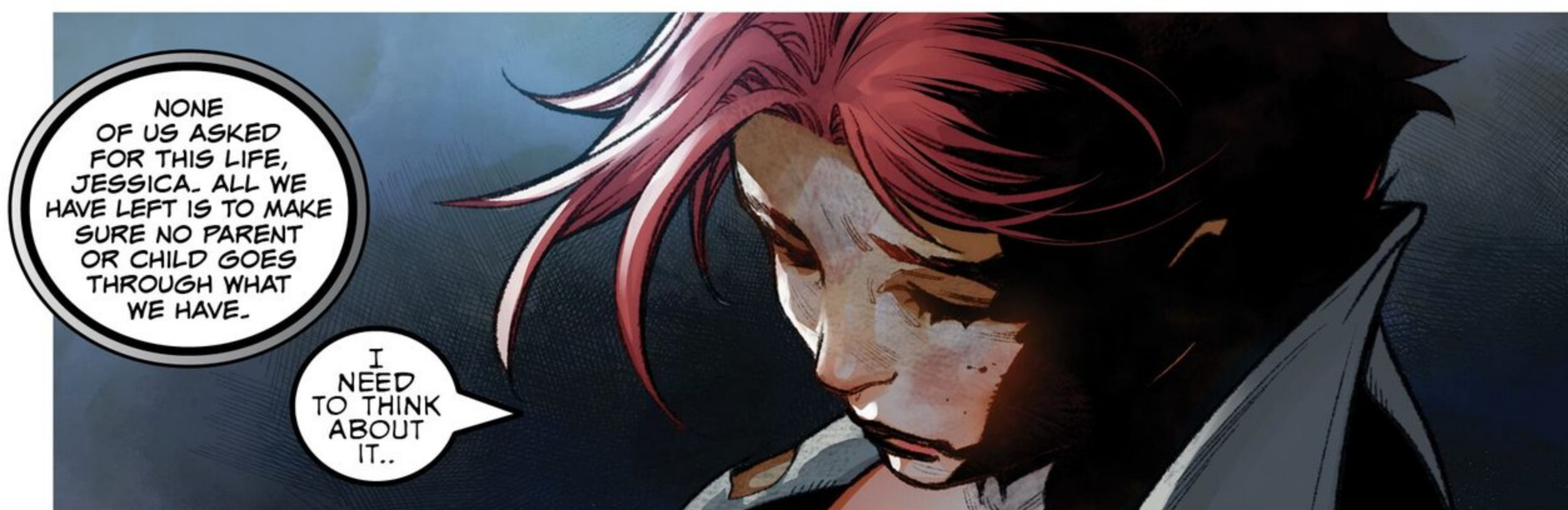
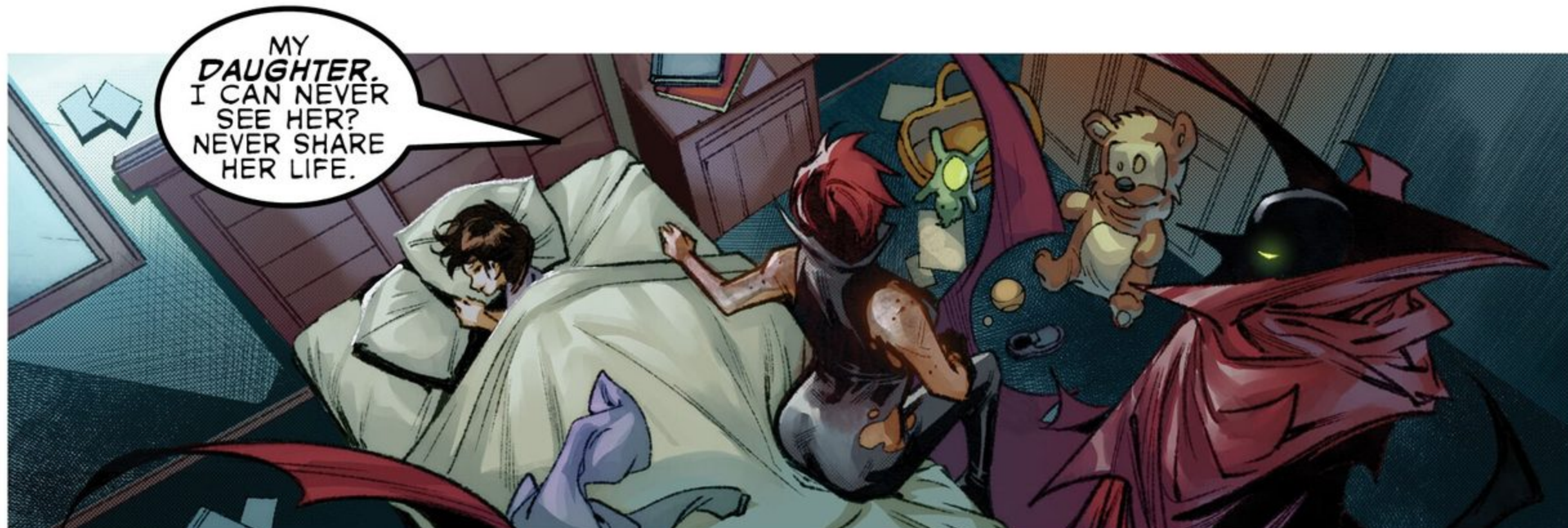
SWEET DREAMS, LITTLE ANNIE.

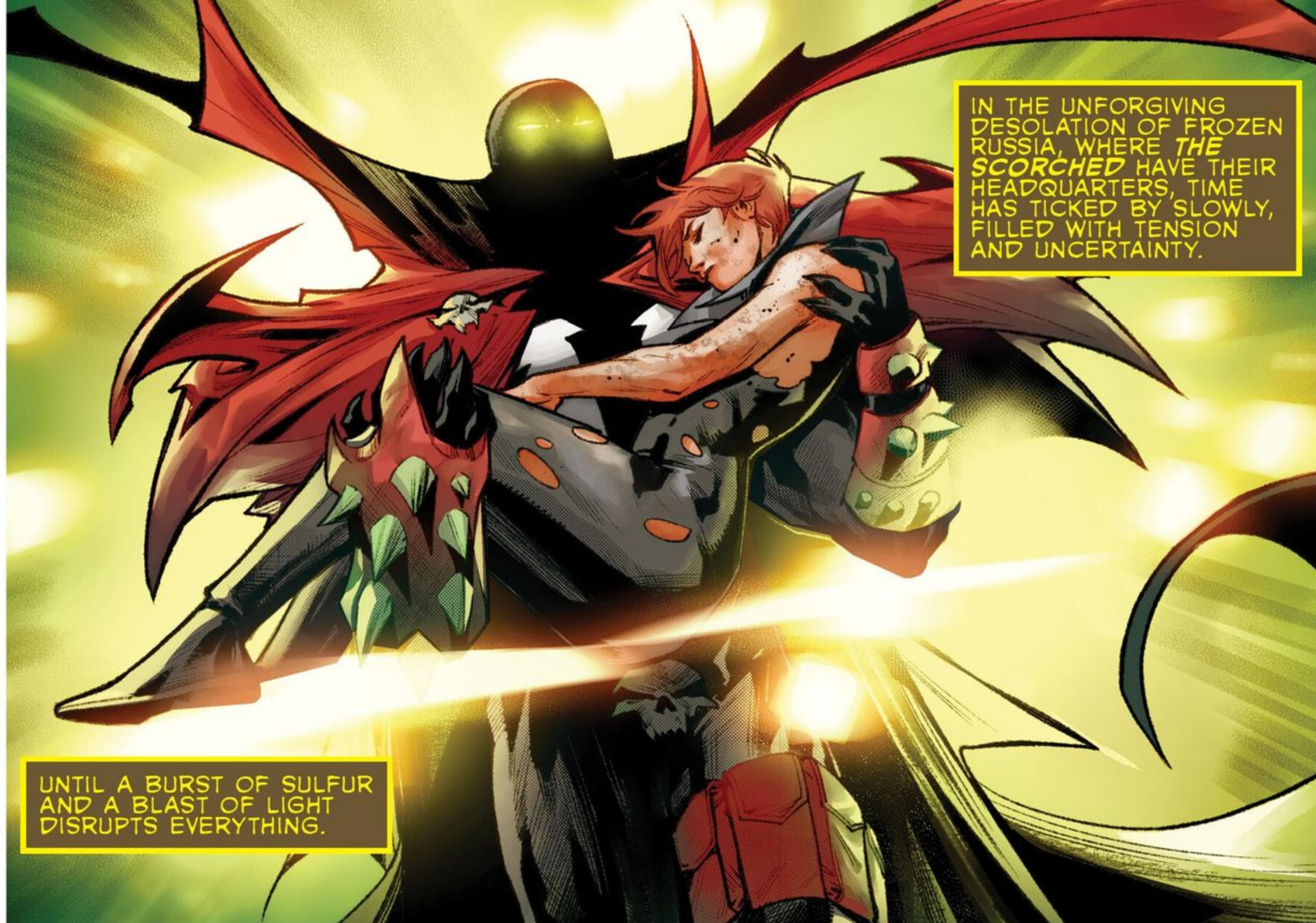
G'NIGHT, GRANDMA.

SOON ALL WE HEAR IS THE SOFT SOUNDS OF PEACEFUL SLUMBER.

I HATE WHAT MY LIFE'S BECOME.

WHAT I'VE HAD TO GIVE UP.





IN THE UNFORGIVING
DESOLATION OF FROZEN
RUSSIA, WHERE **THE
SCORCHED** HAVE THEIR
HEADQUARTERS, TIME
HAS TICKED BY SLOWLY,
FILLED WITH TENSION
AND UNCERTAINTY.

UNTIL A BURST OF SULFUR
AND A BLAST OF LIGHT
DISRUPTS EVERYTHING.



DID SHE
LEARN HER
LESSON?

I'M NOT
IN THE MOOD,
MONILITH.

IS
JESSICA...
IS SHE...



SHE'S
ALIVE. BUT
SHE NEEDS
REST.



HER
BODY AND
MIND, THEY'LL
NEED TIME
TO HEAL.



AND,
AFTER THAT,
SHE HAS A
DECISION
TO MAKE.



WHAT
DOES *THAT*
MEAN?

THAT
SHE'S STILL
THINKING ABOUT
QUITTING THE
TEAM?



SPAWN?



REDEEMER'S QUERY
GOES UNANSWERED,
AS SPAWN RETREATS
INTO THE SHADOWS,
DEPARTING IN
OMINOUS SILENCE.

AND A DISQUIETING
PALL FALLS OVER THE
ROOM, AS THE FATE
OF JESSICA PRIEST--
AND THIS TEAM--
IS NOW *VERY*
MUCH IN QUESTION.



SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

FAN ART



Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawningground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S ? UNIVERSE

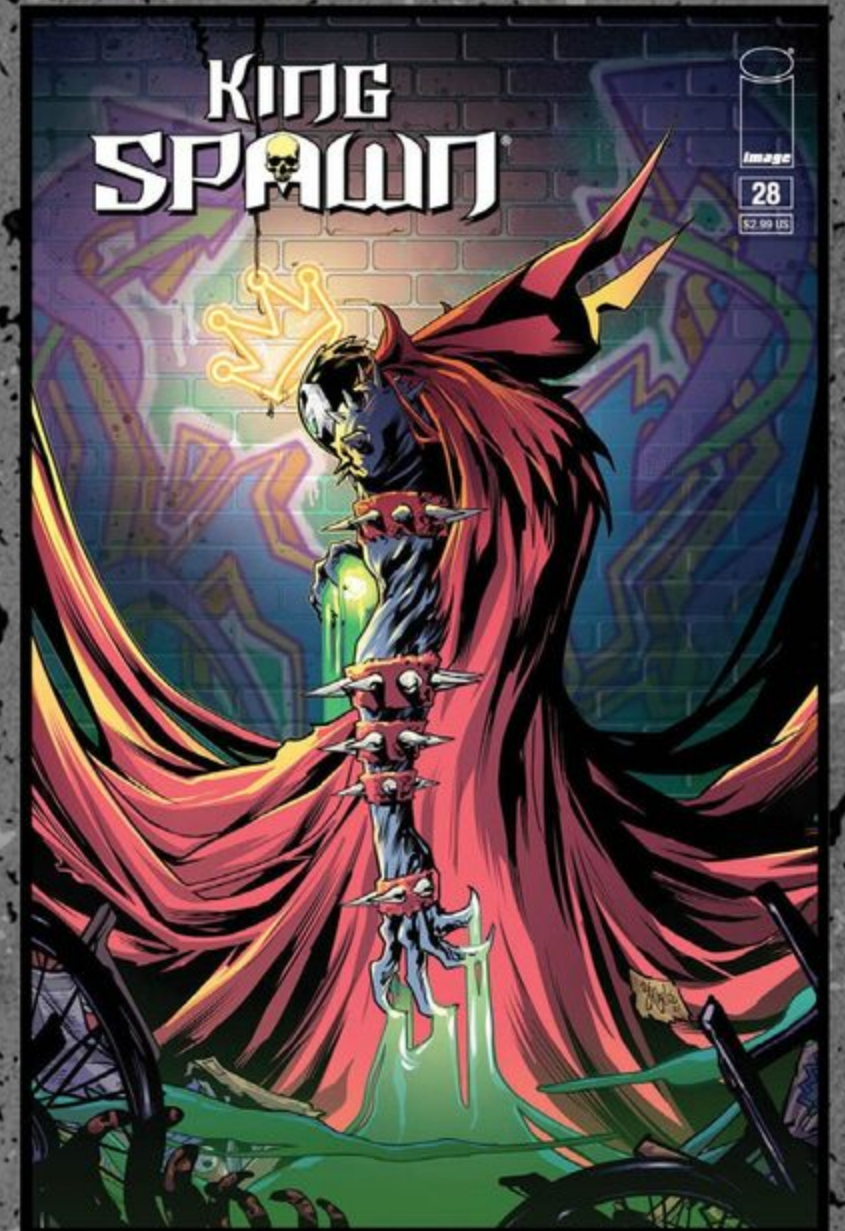
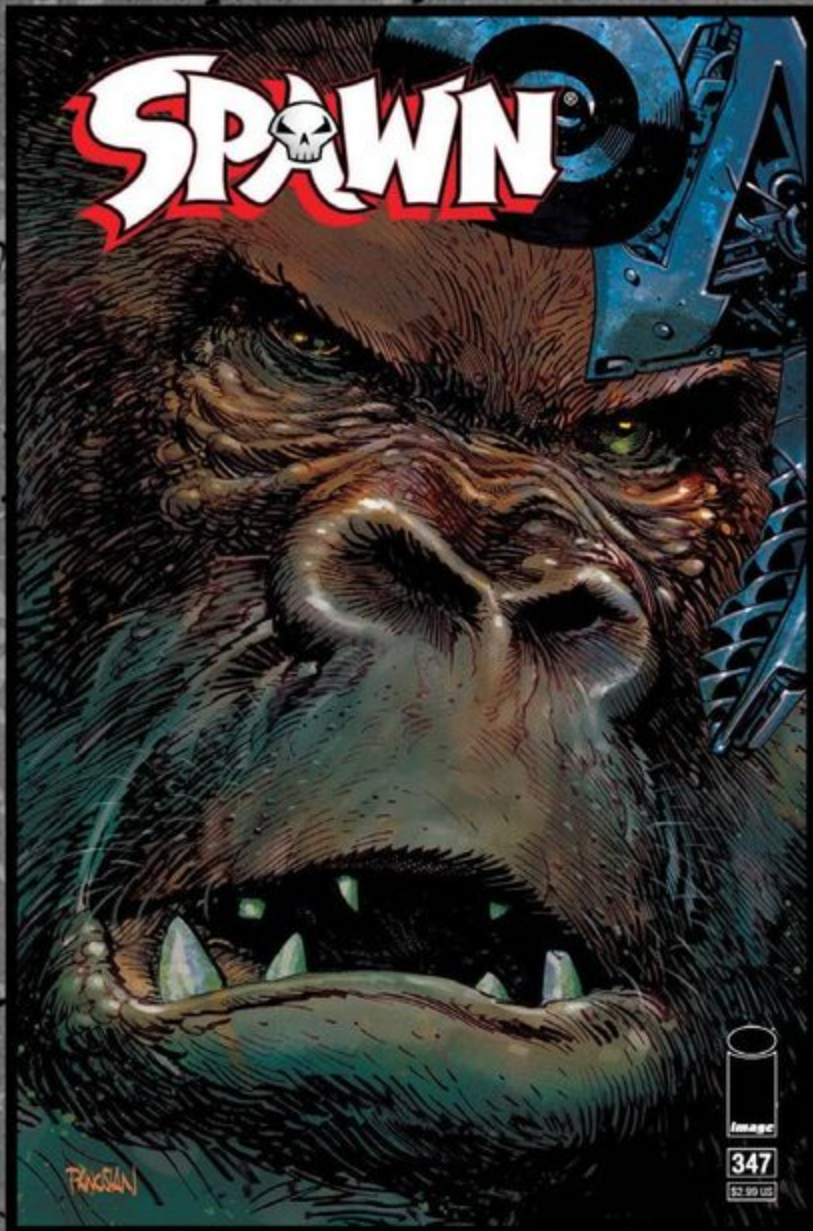
DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES!

SPAWN

KING
SPAWN

THE
SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER



NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 2023

VELVET DEADLY CLASS *ROYAL CITY*
LAZARUS **EAST OF WEST** I KILL GIANTS
THE WALKING DEAD I HATE FAIRYLAND
KING CITY *SEX CRIMINALS*
KILL OR BE KILLED **CURSE WORDS** *RATQUEENS*
SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**
MONSTRESS **CHEW** *KINGSMAN*
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY
DESCENDER *PAPER GIRLS*
OCTOPUS PIE WYTCHEs SHUTTER
TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS **BITCH PLANET**
SAGA *MOTOR CRUSH* **WAYWARD** *TREES*
THE AUTUMNLANDS
CRIMINAL
PLUTONA *LOW*
REVIVAL **NAILBITER**
CAMP MIDNIGHT
SNOTGIRL **ODDLY NORMAL**
MAGE *HINGES*
BLACK SCIENCE
PRETTY DEADLY
THE FADE OUT

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